

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /150 W

----- 057493

R 281022Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9722

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

COMIDEASTFOR

S E C R E T KUWAIT 2132

FROM QUINLAN MUSCAT

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MU, PINS

SUBJ: OMAN COMMAND REVIEW OF DHOFAR WAR

1. SUMMARY: COMMANDING GENERAL CREASEY INCREASINGLY CONFIDENT OF "WINNING WAR IN 1974." IRANIANS TO SUPPLY SQUADRON F-5'S WHEN MIDWAY AIRFIELD COMPLETED BY END 1974 AND CREASEY HOPES IRANIANS WILL SUPPLY ADDITIONAL TROOPS AND UNDERTAKE CLEAR WESTERN SECTOR DHOFAR, ALSO THIS YEAR. ENEMY INCREASINGLY CAUTIOUS AND OMAN PATROLING IS BOLDER AND MORE EXTENSIVE. CIVIC ACTION IN DHOFAR SUFFERING FROM LACK FOLLOW-THROUGH BY CIVIL AUTHORITIES. CREASEY HYPOTHESIZES AND THAT PDRY/ PFLOAG MAY WITHDRAW COMPLETE FROM DHOFAR AND CONCENTRATE ON SUBVERSION NORTHERN OMAN WHILE WAITING FOR NEW OPPORTUNITIES AGAINST FUTURE OMANIZED ARMED FORCES.

2. FOLLOWING MAJOR POINTS MADE BY COMGEN CREASEY IN TALK MAY

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26.

A. IRANIAN AID. IRANIANS HAVE AGREED STATION SQUADRON (16) F-5'S AT MIDWAY WHEN RUNWAY COMPLETED SOMETIME BEFORE END OF YEAR AND WILL AIR PATROL DEFENSIVELY UP TO 10 KM OF PDRY BORDER. MASIRAH BASE FOR F-5'S RULED OUT BECAUSE OF DISTANCE FROM PDRY BORDER. WILL ALSO PROVIDE ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTERIES UNTIL OMAN HAS ITS OWN IN 1975. NUMBER AND LOCATION ADDITIONAL GROUND FORCES TO BE DISCUSSED WITH IRANIAN CHIEF OF STAFF IN JUNE; CREASEY HOPES HAVE ALL IRANIANS ASSIGNED UNDER UNIFIED COMMAND TO SWEEP WEST FROM HORNBEAM LINE. IRANIAN FORCES NOT TRAINED TO FIGHT IN AREAS OF LARGE CIVIL POPULATION (AS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN SECTORS) AND EITHER MIX-UPS WILL OCCUR OR FIRQA IRREGULARS WILL REFUSE FIGHT IN AREA.

B. OPERATIONS. JORDANIAN AND BRITISH ENGINEERS CONTINUING STRENGTHEN HORNBEAM LINE, SIMBA TROOPS NOW PATROLLING OUT ON ESCARPMENT, AND AGGRESSIVE PATROLLING HAS REVEALED WEAKENED ENEMY RESISTANCE IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN SECTORS. SIMBA DETACHMENT DUE FOR RELIEF IN JUNE WILL MARCH OUT AS PSYCHOLOGICAL DEMONSTRATION OF OMANI DOMINATION OF AREA.

C. CIVIL ACTION. HARD-SURFACE ROADS MIDWAY-SALALAH, COASTAL ROAD TO MARBAT WILL BE COMPLETED THIS YEAR AND HARDSURFACE ROADS LINKING CIVIL ACTION POINTS IN EASTERN SECTOR NOW PLANNED. PUBLIC HOUSING PROPOSED FOR CIVIL POPULATION IN MOUNTAINS. HOWEVER, CREASEY VERY DISCOURAGED ABOUT FAILURE CIVIL AUTHORITIES DHOFAR TO FOLLOW UP WITH STAFFING AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF NEW CIVIC ACTION CENTERS; HE PLANS SEE SULTAN QABOOS MAY 27 TO URGE HE GIVE CIVIC ACTION HIS PERSONAL ATTENTION.

D. SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME. CREASEY STILL CONFIDENT WAR WILL BE WON BY END 1974: IEMN ENEMY WILL BE CLEARED OUT OF EAST AND CENTER WITH CIVIL POPULATION PROTECTED BY FIRQA'S SUPPORTED BY SAF, AND WESTERN SECTOR LARGELY CLEARED. SULTAN QABOOS HAS ORDERED CREASEY INSTALL PHYSICAL BARRIER SIMILAR HORNBEAM LINE ALONG OMAN/PDRY BORDER - AN ORDER WHICH CREASEY CITED AS EVIDENCE OF HIS MAJESTY'S TENDENCE TO "KING CANUTE SYNDROME." CREASEY ALSO NOTED THAT WITH END OF WAR IN SIGHT VARIOUS OMANI AUTHORITIES (PROBABLY INCLUDING DEP MIN DEFENSE FAHAR) COMING UP WITH BRIGHT IDEAS AND OBSERVATIONS ON CONDUCT

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OF WAR; ALSO AGREED THAT CONVALESCING PATIENT LIKELY SHOW CRANKINESS AND RESTLESSNESS.

E. LIKELY PDRY/PFLOAG STRATEGY. SHORT OF MAJOR ESCALATION, MOST LIKELY COURSE FOR PDRY IS WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTHERN OMAN AND CONCENTRATION ON PFLOAG SUBVERSION IN NORTHERN OMAN. CREASEY BELIEVES ENEMY WILL COUNT ON OMANIZATION AND GENERAL RELAXATION OF WAR EFFORT AFTER ACTIVE FIGHTING ENDS AND WILL

PREPARE FOR RESUMPTION IN FUTURE WHEN OMAN ARMED FORCES
"SOFTENED AND OFF GUARD." HE ADDED THAT THIS IS GYPOTHESIS
AND HE HAS NO EVIDENCE OF ENEMY'S INTENT.

3. COMMENT: IT SEEMED TO ME CREASEY HIMSELF SUFFERING SOMETHING
OF LETDOWN AFTER APPARENT SUCCESS HIS WAR STRATEGY. STRAIGHT-
FORWARD SOLDIER CREASEY PERHPAS ALSO WEARYING OF PERSUADING
AND REASONING WITH SULTAN QABOOS, WHO INCREASINGLY DETERMINED
MAKE HIS OWN WARPLANS, AND IRANIAN MILITARY ON MILITARY/
POLITICAL STRATEGY AND TACTICS.
MCCLELLAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAR, MILITARY PERSONNEL, DHOFAR, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KUWAIT02132
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740133-0282
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740515/aaaaamkd.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OMAN COMMAND REVIEW OF DHOFAR WAR
TAGS: PINS, MU, IR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005